



What's for Lunch?

An Exercise in Criteria-Based Decision-Making

Criteria-Based Decision-Making may be a new term for your students. In fact, this is something they use in their daily life, they just may not realize it. When introducing Criteria-Based Decision-Making, use an everyday example to help familiarize your students with this concept before using it in their Earth Force project.

Below is an exercise that you can use with your students to orient them to Criteria Based Decision Making:

Deciding what to eat for lunch is a perfect example of using Criteria-Based Decision-Making in daily life!

Criteria are guidelines we use to make judgments or decisions. When deciding what to eat, you think about what you want or like, what is available, what is involved in preparing the food among other things. You are making multiple decisions to refine your options. Ask your students what criteria they think about when deciding what to eat. Here are a few ideas:

- What's already in the fridge/ pantry
- How tasty the food option is
- How healthy the food option is
- How long it will take to cook

Using these criteria, you narrow down your options. Using a table like the one above creates a visual representation of that narrowing-down process. The more boxes checked for each option, the more closely match it is to your criteria!

	Availability (already in fridge/pantry)	Taste	Health	Shortness of Cooking Time
Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich on White Bread	X	X		X
Mac & Cheese	X	X		
Pizza		X		
Salad	X		X	X
Turkey and Cheese Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bread	X	X	X	X

Create your own table with your class using the criteria and options they developed. As a whole class, discuss the options in relationship to the criteria and complete the chart.